

The Times-Dispatch.

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THE TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, Va.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1905.

A Score for Annexation.

The Council Committee on Charter, Ordinance and Reform sat with open doors last night and patiently heard arguments on both sides of the question of annexation. The committee adjourned without action, but there is no doubt that some members at least were won over to the side of greater extension.

The Times-Dispatch is not wedded to any hard and fast lines, and does not ask the committee to follow to the mark the boundaries indicated in a map recently published in this paper. We do ask, however, that the committee will take the broad and comprehensive view and provide liberally for future development. Richmond is growing rapidly in trade, industry and population, and it is reasonable to suppose that during the next ten years her growth will be much greater than during the past decade. The larger a city the larger its growth, and Richmond has now reached a point where she grows by her own accretion. We must take this fact into consideration in extending our boundaries.

One thing more. Our neighbors in the suburbs have for the most part met our overtures in good temper and liberal spirit, and we should be considerate of their interests. The committee should let them know well in advance the terms upon which annexation will be proposed to the court.

Suburban Development.

In his address before the citizens' meeting at the Bijou Theatre on Monday night, Mr. M. V. Richards referred to the wondrous development in the suburbs of Baltimore. The remark was especially interesting to us, for the reason that during a visit to Baltimore several years ago we were so favorably impressed with the suburban development there that upon return we took up the question with Richmond and urged that the city conveniences be extended into the outlying districts, especially in Lee District, which was then totally undeveloped. The city was built compactly up to Lombardy Street—as far as the city conveniences extended—but there was no development whatever beyond that line.

The articles attracted much attention, and citizens' wrote communications to the paper, urging the Council to pursue the course suggested. Finally the conveniences were extended, and within a few years a new city has been built in Lee District. That the money expended by Richmond in these improvements was a good investment goes without saying. But lands in that section are so high that the poor cannot afford to buy and build, and what we now need is to take in additional territory and encourage the building of cheaper homes for those in moderate circumstances.

Much has been said about the cost of improving the districts proposed to be taken in. For five years the revenue derived from that source must be expended in improvements, but the city should not do it all. The property owners themselves should do their part. That is the course pursued in other cities, and it is the right course. A lot in an old field, which would not sell for a hundred dollars or for any price except for speculation, may be made salable at a price many times its original value by bringing to it drainage, water, gas and pavements. The owner of the lot can well afford to pay his part of the cost of such improvements when they so greatly enhance the value of his property.

The South's "Backwardness."

Professor Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard, has spent some time in the South investigating the negro question and has written for the Boston Transcript an article entitled "Is the Negro Degenerate?"

Introductory to his remarks on the negro, Professor Hart takes occasion to say that the South is backward and is comparatively less prosperous in many parts than it was before the war. "The first reason," says he, "given for this lack of prosperity is the devastation of the war, but that cause is somewhat exaggerated in the public mind. The only Southern cities that were badly injured by hostilities were Vicksburg, Atlanta and Columbia and the destruction of plantation buildings was not very significant."

This is news indeed, to the people of Richmond, and the people of the Valley of Virginia. It is also news to us that the South is backward and comparatively less prosperous in many parts than it was before the war. In 1890 the assessed val-

uation of property in the Southern States was \$1,510,925,337; in 1900, \$5,268,540,044; in 1901, \$6,108,867,813. From 1900 to 1901 there was a gain of nearly a billion dollars or at an average of about \$235,000,000 a year. Whereas, between 1890 and 1900 the increase in ten years was only \$755,000,000 or at the rate of \$75,000,000 a year. The total increase in the assessed value of property in the South in the twenty-year period from 1880 to 1900 was \$2,300,000,000, whereas for the last four years the total increase was \$900,000,000. The gain in four years was 40 per cent, as great as the total gain of the preceding twenty years. This gain is not confined to a few States, but is uniform throughout all the States of the South.

The total value of corn, wheat, oats and Irish potatoes, rye and hay produced in the South during the year 1901 was \$42,321,000, a gain of \$20,000,000 over 1900, and \$40,000,000 over 1902. The value of other farm products, exclusive of cotton, but including rice, sugar, tobacco, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruits and live stock products for 1901, is estimated at \$550,000,000, making a total value of Southern products, exclusive of cotton, of \$1,002,000,000 in the year 1901. The value of the cotton crop is estimated at \$650,000,000, making the agricultural products of the South for the past year aggregate in value at least a billion and a half dollars.

It does not appear from this that even in the agricultural regions the South is less prosperous than it was before the war, and that it is going backward instead of forward. To the contrary these figures emphasize that in spite of the devastation of the war, in spite of the enormous difficulties under which Southern farmers have labored, they are more prosperous to-day than ever before. In some sections of the South to be sure the great plantations have disappeared, having been cut up into small farms. But as a whole, the farming section is more prosperous than ever.

It is needless to say that otherwise, in mining, in manufacturing, in railroading, banking, merchandising and in all departments of trade and industry the South of 1905 is so far ahead of the South of 1890 that comparisons would be absurd. We have devoted so much space to this part of Professor Hart's article that we shall have to defer to another time reference to his observations on the condition of the Southern negro. It may be said in a general way, however, that he is optimistic and thinks that on the whole the negro is getting forward, and that the South may take heart.

Taxing Manufacturing Plants.

Colonel William H. Palmer, who has been closely identified with the business and financial interests of this community for years, said in his speech at the Bijou Theatre Monday night that he knew a number of cases where manufacturing plants which had been retired from service were sold for what they would bring, and that the price obtained was less than one-tenth the original cost of the machinery. Colonel Palmer is very conservative in all his statements and no citizen has a higher sense of justice. In view of these facts, however, he is satisfied that it is unfair to tax the machinery of manufacturing concerns upon the basis of its cost. Machinery is valuable only when it is successfully operated, and it is successfully operated only when it has the direction of an intelligent man or set of men who understand their business. Even when thus operated, because of adverse conditions, it may be operated at a loss, and if so, for the time being at least, it is worse than useless. One of the largest manufacturing concerns in this community was operated for several years at a loss to its owners, and if conditions then existing had continued it must inevitably have gone down at last and the machinery which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars would have brought the price of junk.

It cost a great deal of money to equip the shipyard which was operated for some time in Richmond, but it proved to be an unprofitable venture, and had to be shut down. The machinery has not all been disposed of, but it goes without saying that it will bring in the aggregate far less than its cost.

If Richmond enlarges her borders and takes in outlying territory, in which manufacturing plants are situated, these facts will doubtless be taken into consideration when the assessment of the machinery is made.

What Is Patriotism?

When a citizen of any community gives a goodly sum of money to establish some desirable institution, he is called a public benefactor, and all men sing his praises. We would not disparage nor discourage such benefactions, but it is not the whole of good citizenship to give money for public purposes. It is no sacrifice for the man with millions to give thousands for a public institution, especially when in so doing he is erecting a monument to himself. The best citizens are not necessarily those who pay the largest taxes. A man must pay taxes whether he would or not. There are many public spirited men and women in Richmond who have little property, and therefore pay little taxes. But they are always thinking of what they can do for the improvement of the city. They are engaged in charity work, in helping the schools, in encouraging public cleanliness and ornamentation, in civic improvement in all directions. They do not give money, for they have no money to give; but they give that which is far better.

But they meet with many discouragements, and when they undertake to work up some public enterprise involving an expenditure of money, "tax-payer," who has kept quiet hitherto and gone about his own private business, giving little thought to public affairs, is almost sure to be heard from in the public print. He lifts up his voice in mournful protest; he speaks in the most contemptuous terms of "sentimental women and visionary men," who are trying to take something out of the pockets of those who pay the taxes; he talks as though they were robbers. He seems to think that

only the tax-payers should have any say in the affairs of government.

Richmond would be in a bad way if all public work had to be done by some of those protesting "tax-payers." If a man pays taxes, he does well. But that is not enough. He owes other obligations to the community in which he lives, and if he neglects his duty, if he takes no part in public work, at least let him not lift his voice against those who do. A man's patriotism is not to be measured by the size of his tax account, but by the affectionate service that he renders.

The First Electric Car Line.

Some weeks ago The Richmond Times-Dispatch, in setting forth some of the "points of vantage" of Richmond, claimed for it the honor of having the first electric car line. In this, our esteemed contemporary is mistaken. More than one persons from a distance have come to Richmond to see this matter, and with the result of giving precedence to this city.

On the 23d day of December, 1885, the Capital City Street Railway Company, of Montgomery, adopted a resolution accepting a contract of the Van Dusen Electric Manufacturing Company for the construction of an electric car system. Early in 1886 the cars were in operation on our streets, and up to that day no electric cars had been run in any other city in the United States.

In the fall of that year, President Cleveland and a distinguished party with him were in Montgomery and it was noted by them that they had seen here for the first time cars moved by electricity.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Far be it from us to grab. The International Encyclopedia says: "From 1880 to 1888 a number of experimental electric roads were constructed, but the first successful electric railway in its modern form was opened in Richmond, Va., February 1, 1888." It was upon that statement that The Times-Dispatch claimed for Richmond the first electric railway. We had expected a "chance" from the Charlotte Observer, which claims everything for North Carolina. But we did not know our Alabama contemporary would be so grasping.

The Orange Observer, one of the best of all the good Virginia weeklies, which is "editorially energized" by Robert Newton Robinson and most gracefully localized by Miss Bertha Gray Robinson, has just celebrated its twenty-fourth birthday. The Observer is not a "yellow" journal, as its name might indicate, but is one of the best family weeklies that enters Virginia homes. The Observer has done and is doing good work in Virginia, and it is a pleasure to record the fact that it was never more prosperous than now, as it enters its twenty-fifth year.

Town Topics explains the whole matter as follows: "Charles Anderson, a negro politician, as collector of internal revenue in New York, is the outcome of a dare. When Crum was appointed collector of the port at Charleston, S. C., the Southern papers and politicians said that Roosevelt would not dare to make such an appointment in the North. Collector Anderson is the President's retort. Nevertheless, no Dinahs and Sambos danced with the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the inauguration ball."

The Times-Dispatch recently remarked: "Japan has destroyed the Russian fleet, captured Port Arthur and practically driven Kurapatkin out of Manchuria. That is all that she set out to do. Why, then, has she not won her fight? And why is it not time for Russia to sue for peace? And if she does not do so, is it not time for the Powers to interfere?"

And the Boston Transcript remarks that The Times-Dispatch has asked three potent questions.

The first thunder clap for 1905 came forth at 3:06 P. M., Monday, March 20th. Now, no weatherwise can proceed to predict accurately to your previously conceived ideas of weather wisdom.

There are getting to be too many female captains of finance in this free country. Mrs. Reeder, who was up to mortgage the island of Santo Domingo, is the latest curiosity in this line.

The Osler proposition lacks about fifty-nine years and ten months of being of the required age, but all the same, it is well enough to apply the chloroform remedy at once.

Mr. Roosevelt was naturally an admirer of the late John H. Reagan, of Confederate fame, who left six living children, twenty-one grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The soldiers in the Japanese army are said to be worn out. Trying to keep up with those Russian sprinters is enough to make them at least a little tired.

Governor Hoch and all the Grand Dukes of Kansas have declared that there can be no peace with the oil octopus until Kansas scores at least one victory.

The Indiana Legislature has gone up against the Indiana snail boy. It has passed an anti-snail law.

Look out for a setback for General Oyam. He has gotten on the boasting line.

Don't brag about yesterday's thunderstorm. Philadelphia had one on Sunday last.

A Stranger's Thanks.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir, Through the kindness of Colonel A. Evans, I have received my first copy of "The Times-Dispatch," which I have read with very much interest, and I promise to send you a letter of appreciation in every respect, of which its readers may feel proud to read, for it is free from everything that could give offense to the most sensitive or refined mind.

I am surprised to find a paper published south of the Mason and Dixon line, which is so free from everything that could give offense to the most sensitive or refined mind. But they meet with many discouragements, and when they undertake to work up some public enterprise involving an expenditure of money, "tax-payer," who has kept quiet hitherto and gone about his own private business, giving little thought to public affairs, is almost sure to be heard from in the public print. He lifts up his voice in mournful protest; he speaks in the most contemptuous terms of "sentimental women and visionary men," who are trying to take something out of the pockets of those who pay the taxes; he talks as though they were robbers. He seems to think that



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The only race that bothers us is the race of life, which we must all strive to win. It is not a matter of money, but of the heart. It is not a matter of power, but of the soul. It is not a matter of knowledge, but of the will. It is not a matter of skill, but of the spirit. It is not a matter of strength, but of the love. It is not a matter of wisdom, but of the faith. It is not a matter of courage, but of the hope. It is not a matter of patience, but of the charity. It is not a matter of gentleness, but of the kindness. It is not a matter of meekness, but of the lowliness. It is not a matter of self-control, but of the temperance. It is not a matter of chastity, but of the purity. It is not a matter of sobriety, but of the moderation. It is not a matter of industry, but of the diligence. It is not a matter of order, but of the tidiness. It is not a matter of cleanliness, but of the neatness. It is not a matter of health, but of the vigor. 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